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AGRICULTURE, MINING, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

ADAMS, FREDERICK UPHAM. *The Conquest of the Tropics*. Pp. xii, 368. Price, \$2.00. Garden City: Doubleday, Page and Company.

If some experienced writer should go to the Standard Oil Company, get from it a collection of facts about its development and the life history of its founders, he could make a very interesting story of the development of the oil industry and the great economic services it has rendered.

Doubtless, certain ethical, legal, political and social matters of common knowledge and great interest would be omitted from the narrative.

Keeping the above facts in mind, one interested in the development of the tropics, of the banana industry, or in mere stories of achievement, will find much interesting reading in Mr. Adams' "Conquest of the Tropics" which is nothing more than the history of the United Fruit Company, its enterprises and founders, from data furnished chiefly by themselves. Mr. Adams doesn't emphasize the fact that it is often called the "Banana Trust" but he does lay stress on the point that the enterprisers needed great rewards for the risks they ran.

When one starts out to judge this company as a social or political phenomenon he should remember that the comparison should be made not with the absolute, whatever that may be, but with what would otherwise have prevailed. The United Fruit Company's political and economic achievement in the lands of a dozen Diazes and Carranzas and Villas is a commanding achievement as a type of the tropic industry of the future. It needs to be studied and Mr. Adams has given us some very interesting material with which to start.

It is suggestive to see how these Yankee enterprisers sent to the Orient for scientists and physicians, how they started an American university to studying tropic diseases, how they were the pioneer sanitarians of the American Tropics and how their costly researches at sugar making in Cuba promise to supply the world with cane fiber paper and spare our forests a heavy drain. An enterprise that employs 60,000 men in a dozen different countries might be classed as one of the Powers. In the lands along the Carribean it is more than that in the opinion of some travellers. This book shows the economic basis of that power.

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HARRIS, FRANKLIN S. and STEWART, GEORGE. *The Principles of Agronomy*. Pp. xvi, 451. Price, \$1.40. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915.

The purpose of the book as laid down in the introduction, is to "give the beginner in agricultural study a general idea of the successful production of crops and to furnish him a basis of study in other branches of agriculture."

Dr. Harris and Mr. Stewart have divided their material under the four main headings—the plant, the soil, the field crops, and field management.

Under the first heading, there is a general discussion of the plant and its environment, including the factors of growth. Then there follows a rather detailed description of plant structure setting forth the use of each of the parts described, and a description of the various plant functions. With these factors